

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: February 6, 2002

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Education and Examination Exemption
for Respiratory Care Practitioners Amendment Act of 2001"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 14-324 as Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2002 through FY 2005 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation because there is no significant financial impact associated with the provisions of the proposal. To the extent that all of the individuals who would qualify for licensure as a result of the proposed legislation become licensed, revenues could increase by as much as \$5,250.

Background

The proposed legislation would extend the waiver of education and examination requirements for individuals practicing respiratory care therapy prior to the enactment of the Respiratory Care Practice Amendment of 1994. Under current law, an applicant who meets the waiver requirements must have applied for his or her license within 24 months of March 14, 1995. The proposed legislation would allow application for licenses under the waiver to be made within 12 months of the effective date of this legislation.

In order to qualify for waiver the applicant must meet two conditions. First, the applicant must prove to the satisfaction of the Board of Respiratory Care that he or she has been performing the function of a respiratory therapist on a substantially full-time and continuous basis at least 12 months immediately preceding March 14, 1995. The

applicant also must prove that he or she is qualified to practice in such a capacity and apply for the license prior to the specified deadline.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), approximately 35 individuals are expected to benefit from the proposed legislation. There are 606 currently licensed respiratory therapists.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2002 through FY 2005 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation because the waiver of licensure requirements for respiratory care practitioners based on demonstration of performance would not increase expenditures. To the extent that the individuals who would qualify for licensure as a result of the proposed legislation become licensed, revenues could increase. If all of the estimated 35 eligible applications apply for licensure and pay the associated licensing fee of \$150, revenues could increase by as much as \$5,250. The cost of professional licenses is generally set to cover the administrative costs associated with regulating the profession.